

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF SERVICES INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CITIES TO DATE BURIEN

The City of Burien entered into a partnership with the Sheriff's Office when the city incorporated in 1993.

Burien is located in the southwest region of the county and has a population of over 31,000 residents. The Burien law enforcement team is made up of 41 patrol officers, detectives and support personnel. The officers wear city-marked uniforms and drive city-marked police cars, which help to emphasize a stronger community identity.

Burien is currently served by both North Highline Fire District 11 and Burien/Normandy Park Fire District 2. We also contract with King County for police services. Given that the level of service we are considering with annexation matches what North Highline receives today, we don't see much changing in the public safety arrangements in police or fire employment levels. Determining appropriate levels of service would be part of the community conversations that would occur next year.

Some organizational changes in administration at the Precinct level that currently serves Burien and North Highline and in the Fire Command structure between Districts 2 and 11 would occur as these groups are consolidated to serve one city. If the Burien City Council declares a Potential Annexation Area, the details of how and when that would happen would be part of the contract negotiations between the city and special districts in early 2006. If for some reason, one or more employees currently serving North Highline did not have an assignment in the new organizational structure, we would work with the County or Fire District to develop a career plan for that person so they could make a job change without losing employment or critical pension and other insurance coverage.

From talking with our own residents as well as reading your public comments about annexation, public safety and fire protection, we have learned that service stability is of top concern. Both our residents and yours would like to see a seamless transition of governance during annexation so that public safety response times remain the same or better. Because the public safety services you receive today will be the same as the services you would receive after annexation, response times would not increase.

Sources include:

¹ Governance Study Community Meeting, sponsored by the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, September 15, 2005, levels of City Services [with amendments 9/22/05], Nesbitt Planning & Management, Inc.
North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, Responses to Questions Asked of Seattle¹ and Burien² on October 20, 2005

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from West Hill Governance Options Neighborhood Meetings, April 2005, Wst Hill Governance Task Force, Prepared by Berk & Associates.

King County Sheriff's website: http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/partners/city_contracts/burien.aspx

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF SERVICES INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CITIES TO DATE SEATTLE

Public safety is the paramount duty of the City. While there are general public safety activities that are conducted on a city-wide basis, each area has specific issues that must be addressed after discussions with neighborhood residents and businesses. To the extent feasible, the joint Weed and Seed effort with King County will be maintained (depends on what areas are annexed into Seattle). The City's focus is also on crime prevention programs and is working with both neighborhood business areas to identify "hot spots" for increased emphasis patrols and the Seattle Public School, in selected area, to increase efforts to reduce school truancy and get the kids back into schools. These and other type of appropriate activities will be tailored to the specific areas.

The state law requires the retention of police & fire staff that are affected by an annexation, we will want to retain as many of police & fire staff to ensure a smooth operational and community transition. Seattle will work with the affected organizations as part of the formal annexation assessment/implementation plan and the annexation agreement with King County.

Generally the status of a special district would not change with a change in governance unless the service was provided by the new government and the special district is dissolved. In the event of Annexation to Seattle, the Seattle Fire Department would be the likely service provider.

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¹ Governance Study Community Meeting, sponsored by the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, September 15, 2005, levels of City Services [with amendments 9/22/05], Nesbitt Planning & Management, Inc.
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